IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly comprising:

a plurality of optical fiber cores arranged planarly; [[, and]]

an adhesive layer provided on said optical fiber cores; and

at least one tape layer for integrating said plurality of optical fiber cores into one body,

wherein said at least one tape layer has a tensile strength higher than an adhesive force of said at least one tape layer to said plurality of optical fiber cores.

2. (Currently Amended) The ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said tape layer includes a film base, and [[an]] said adhesive layer.

3. (Currently Amended) The ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one tape layer has a high flame retardancy.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of separating a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly defined in Claim 1 into single cores, comprising the steps of:

~~peeling at least one portion of said tape layer~~ bending said optical fiber core assembly to break said plurality of optical fiber cores at a predetermined breaking position; and

applying a pulling force on said at least one tape layer in a direction of detachment from said plurality of optical fiber cores to thereby peel said at least one tape layer up to a predetermined position.

5. (Currently Amended) A film for a tape core assembly comprising:

a flexible film ~~capable of~~ integrating a plurality of optical fibers as a tape, and

a plurality of position limiting portions ~~formed so that the~~ limiting a plurality of positions of said plurality of optical fibers ~~is capable to be limited~~,

wherein a pitch of arrangement of said plurality of position limiting portions at one end portion of said flexible film is different from a pitch of arrangement of said plurality of position limiting portions at the other end portion of said flexible film.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly ~~comprising:~~ according to claim 2,

~~a plurality of optical fiber cores arranged planarly, at least one film base, and~~

~~an adhesive layer,~~

wherein gaps are formed between said plurality of optical fiber cores that are adjacent one another ~~are disposed so that gaps are formed between adjacent ones of said optical fiber cores respectively~~;

said adhesive layer is interposed in said gaps so that said gaps are filled with said adhesive layer; and

said ~~film base~~ at least one tape layer is provided so that said plurality of optical fiber cores and said adhesive layer are covered with said ~~film base~~ at least one tape layer.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly, comprising the steps of:

arranging a plurality of optical fiber cores planarly at designated intervals; and

covering said arranged optical fiber cores with at least one film base after compression bonding said arranged optical fiber cores to one another by an adhesive layer so that said adhesive layer is interposed between said arranged optical fiber cores.

9. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A tape core assembly-containing connector comprising:

~~either of~~ a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 7 ~~and a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly formed by a method according to Claim 8~~, and

a multi-core connector connected with said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly.

10. (Currently Amended) The tape core assembly-containing fiber array comprising:

~~either of~~ a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 7 ~~and a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly formed by a method according to Claim 8~~, and

a fiber array connected with said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly.

11. (Currently Amended) The optical wiring system comprising:

~~either of~~ a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 7 ~~and a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly formed by a method according to Claim 8~~,

wherein said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly is wired.

12. (New) A tape core assembly-containing connector comprising:

a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly formed by a method according to Claim 8, and

a multi-core connector connected with said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly.

13. (New) A tape core assembly-containing fiber array comprising:

a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly formed by a method according to Claim 8, and

a fiber array connected with said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly.

14. (New) The optical wiring system comprising:

a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly formed by a method according to Claim 8, wherein said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly is wired.